

WYCOMBE Wanderers have put a 12,000 limit on the gate for their FA Cup second round clash with Reading at Loakes Park on December 11.

Wanderers, who are delighted to have such a plum tie against the local Division Three neighbours, decided to restrict the gate after consultation with the police.

The committee have also decided not to make the match all ticket so spectators will be able to go through the turnstiles on the day. Tickets are on sale, however, for the stand and enclosure.

Prices on the day will be 60p for admission to the ground, 40p for children and 30p for OAP's. Enclosure tickets are 80p, wing stand tickets £1 and centre stand tickets £1.30.

Stand tickets will be on sale to club members only on Sunday between 10 am and 12 noon and any remaining tickets will go on sale to the general public on Tuesday (November 30) and Thursday (December 2) at 7 pm. Season ticket holders must claim their tickets by Thursday, December 2.

Enclosure tickets are on sale to the general public on Sunday from 10 am to 12 noon and on Tuesday and Thursday at 7 pm.

BEST DRAW

Wanderers must be expecting a crowd of between 10,000 to their 12,000 limit for the game which is virtually the best draw they could have hoped for. Reading have a weekly gate of around

6,000 and can be expected to bring something over 3,000 for the match.

The clubs have already sorted out a colour clash as both normally play in blue. In the FA Cup both sides are expected to use their alternative strips but both Wycombe and Reading play in blue and their alternatives are yellow. So it will be Wanderers who will wear their normal blue kit while Reading will be in yellow.

With a packed gallery at Loakes Park virtually assured, Wanderers must stand a great chance of reaching the third round stage, a feat they accomplished two years ago when they drew with Middlesbrough and only lost the replay 1-0.

Reading, who were promoted from Division

Four after finishing third last year, began the season brightly and were joint top at one stage. Just recently, however, their form has gone downhill and they have managed only three points from their last eight league matches.

They can hardly be relishing their trip to the Loakes Park slope — something that must surely be worrying the players — and they were forced to struggle against non-league opposition in the last round on Saturday.

SENT OFF

The opponents were Wealdstone from the Southern League. Reading eventually got through by a single goal thanks to John Murray but they were unable to add further scores despite the fact that Wealdstone were reduced to nine men when two of their players were sent off for high tackles.

Another worry in Reading minds will be their defeat last year in the Cup. They were drawn at Hendon in the first round last year and lost out 1-0 at Claremont Road. Alan Phillips, the current Wanderers centre half, scored the only goal and will be anxious to repeat the process on the 11th.

Reading have retained most of the squad that won them promotion last season but made one new signing in Paul Bennett, a centre half who was with Southampton last year. Bennett cost them £8,000 and was a member of the Saints Cup final squad.

Although the Wanderers side is generally regarded to be not as strong as recent years, they will still be a major force to be reckoned with and are currently enjoying a fine run which sees them unbeaten in seven league and cup games.

Manager Ted Powell is certainly happy with the draw and the players, too, are confident they can reach the third round when the First and Second Division clubs enter the competition.

Ted, who was interviewed on BBC radio this week, told the 'Free Press': "There is bound to be a big crowd there on the day and I think we can get through."

Reading have a good knowledge of Wycombe as they paid several trips to Loakes Park in search of players earlier in the season. It is understood they were interested in the Blues' top goalscorer Ian Pearson.

Both sides, of course, will be taking a good look at each other in the two weeks before the game and if Wycombe do not arrange a fixture for December 4, Wanderers fans are likely to make the short trip to Reading to watch them against York at Elm Park. At present Wanderers are without a game on the 4th but they have fixed up a friendly for next week with Chalfont St Peter. The teams meet at Loakes Park on Tuesday evening.